

22
330
0
2
University of Illinois
Library School

COLORED BRANCH
Louisville Free Public Library
Tenth and Chestnut Streets

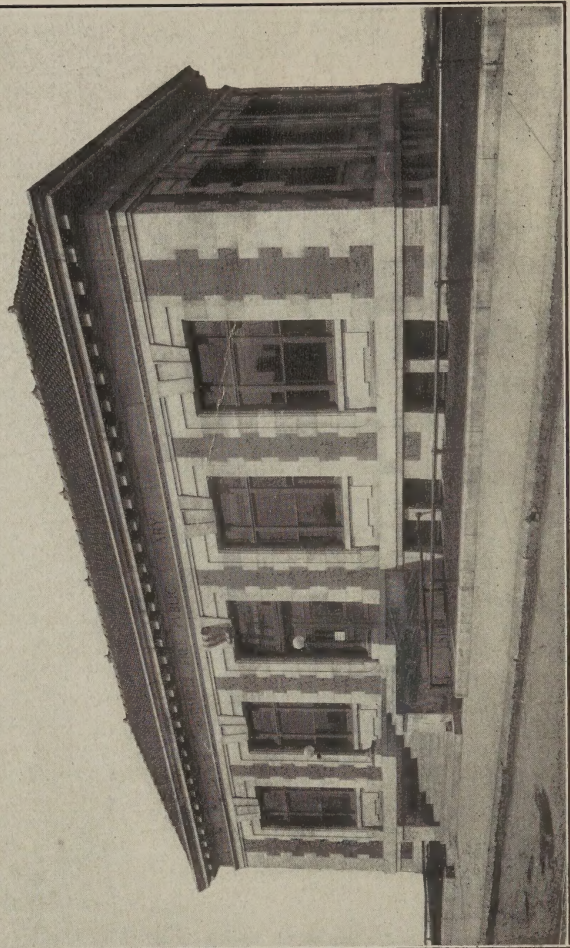
A brief illustrated description of the new building together with some interesting figures concerning its cost, its equipment and its use

LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY

May 1909







COLORED BRANCH BUILDING
Louisville Free Public Library

027.22
L8883C
1809
COLORED BRANCH cop. 2

Louisville Free Public Library

In outlining the library system for Louisville the Trustees wisely planned a special library for the 40,000 colored citizens. After the opening of the main library the Colored Branch came next on September 23, 1905, in temporary quarters. At the same time the Board purchased a site at Tenth and Chestnut streets, where one of the Carnegie branch buildings was erected and opened October 29, 1908.

The new building is 77 feet long and 45 feet wide, two stories high, built of brick with stone trimmings and tile roof. On the main floor near the entrance is the delivery desk and back of it are large tables with abundant space for reading and reference; to the left on entering is a newspaper alcove, an office and the special children's room; to the right is a magazine alcove, a special room for adults and a small study room. The ground floor contains a large lecture room, two class rooms and supply and boiler rooms.

The furniture is beautiful in design and finish, provision is made for free access to all the books and the entire arrangement is one of convenience and comfort for those who wish to read or study or get a book for home use.

Some Interesting Figures

COST OF PLANT

Site	\$3180.00	
Improving grounds.....	1048.68	\$4228.68
<hr/>		
Building proper	27511.74	
Light fixtures	433.55	
Furniture.....	3395.34	31340.63
<hr/>		
Books and periodicals		6139.71
<hr/>		
Total.....		\$41709.02

CIRCULATION

The number of volumes drawn for home use was

First fiscal year.....	17,838
Second fiscal year.....	30,259
Third fiscal year.....	35,910
September 1, '08 to May 1, '09	39,754

Total.....	123,761
------------	---------

The library contains 6,882 volumes of books and 65 current magazines and periodicals, all of which are free. New books are being added constantly. The branch serves as a reference library for the Colored Schools. Books are distributed free not only at the branch proper but also at various public schools

through numerous stations and through teachers' collections. A weekly story hour is conducted for the children and a number of reading and debating clubs meet regularly at the library. Occasional free entertainments with lantern slides are given in the Lecture Room. This room may also be used for other important public meetings.

Popularity of the Library

The opening of its doors marked an epoch in the development of the race. It is the only institution of its kind in existence and has been a success from the beginning. Since its opening 123,761 volumes have been drawn for home use; of these only 38 per cent were fiction and 67 per cent were children's books. It is at present in such high favor that the Library Trustees in May 1909 voted to establish a Second Colored Branch in the eastern portion of the city.

A cordial invitation to visit the library is extended to every one interested in its work. In this way only can its attractiveness and usefulness be fully understood and appreciated. The following sentences are taken from letters written by patrons of the Colored Branch:

"The library is a boon to our people."

"Its influence is being felt in the homes, the schools and the churches."

"It has brought heaps of pleasure and enjoyment to my family."

Louisville Free Public Library

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Mayor James F. Grinstead President
Arthur M. Rutledge Vice-President
Reuben Post Halleck Secretary
John Stites Treasurer

Albert S. Brandeis, W. H. Bartholomew,
Arthur G. Langham, Owen Tyler,
Edgar Y. Mullins, Edward L. Powell,
Charles R. Hemphill, Alfred Pirtle, Frank P. Straus

LIBRARIAN

William F. Yust

COLORED BRANCH STAFF

Thomas F. Blue Librarian
Rachel D. Harris Assistant
Elizabeth Finney Assistant

HOURS

The Colored Branch is open

Week days 1 to 9 p. m.
Sundays 2 to 9 p. m.

The Library is entirely free. Any one may take a book from the shelf and use it in the reading room without asking permission. In order to take a book home it is necessary to obtain a card from the librarian at the desk. A book may be kept two weeks. The date when it must be taken back to the Library is stamped at the back of the book and on the card. The librarians will gladly give help and answer questions.

60910-15



